

That which is claimed:

1. A method for making an absorbent composite from a continuous tow comprising the steps of:

introducing a crimped tow from a bale;

spreading the crimped tow;

de-registering the crimped tow;

shaping the de-registered tow; and

distributing a particulate onto the shaped tow,

wherein the tow's travel through de-registering, shaping, and distribution defining a vertical plane and the bale being located off the vertical plane.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein off the vertical plane being at any angle less than  $90^\circ$  from a line perpendicular to the vertical plane.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein off the vertical plane being at an angle of  $90^\circ$  from the vertical plane.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein off the vertical plane being spaced away from vertical plane.

5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising shaping the de-registered tow to a substantially rectangular cross-section.

6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising applying a liquid to the tow.

7. An apparatus for making an absorbent composite from a continuous tow comprising:

means for introducing a crimped tow from a bale;

means for spreading the crimped tow;

means for de-registering the crimped tow;

means for shaping the de-registered tow; and

means for distributing a particulate onto the shaped tow,

wherein the tow's travel through de-registering, shaping, and distribution defining a vertical plane and the bale being located off the vertical plane.

8. The apparatus of Claim 7 wherein off the vertical plane being at any angle less than  $90^\circ$  from a line perpendicular to the vertical plane.

9. The apparatus of Claim 8 wherein off the vertical plane being at an angle of  $90^\circ$  from the vertical plane.

10. The apparatus of Claim 7 wherein off the vertical plane being spaced away from vertical plane.

11. The apparatus of Claim 7 further comprising means for shaping the de-registered tow to a substantially rectangular cross-section.

12. The apparatus of Claim 7 further comprising means for applying a liquid to the tow.